

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4315

March 21st, 2023

Honorable Maria-Elena Garner
Commissioner
International Boundary & Water Commission
4191 N Mesa St.
El Paso, TX 79902

Dear Commissioner Giner,

For decades now the United States and Mexico have shared the mutual benefits of the Water Treaty signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. Under this treaty, Mexico is expected to deliver a minimum of 350,000-acre feet of water each year, over a five-year cycle.

Historically, however, Mexico has almost always waited until the end of the five-year cycle to fulfill its water contribution; all while Texas farmers deal with the negative consequences of not having enough water to grow their crops.

With the lack of rain fall this crop season, farmers in South Texas are facing the possibility of devastating losses to their crops. I thank you for taking the time to meet with my team on this issue and I am encouraged by your efforts so far in urging the Mexican government to fulfill their outstanding water obligations to the United States. As farmers in my district and all across the Rio Grande Valley fight to secure enough water to grow their crops, it is critical that efforts to engage with Mexico to fulfill their water requirements are prioritized.

As I talk to farmers in South Texas, I hear more and more about the concerns they have if Mexico does not immediately release water from their reservoirs. To avoid an impending crop disaster in 2023, I must reiterate my strong support for continued talks with the Mexican

government on this issue. Sugarcane farmers in the Rio Grande Valley face the dilemma of having to choose between not planting sugarcane crops at all or planting them and risking huge losses due to droughts and the scarcity of water.

Thank you for your time and attention. I hope that you will continue to work to resolve this matter so that water is secured for our farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monica De La Cruz', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress
15th District of Texas